

VZCZCXYZ0003
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSO #0350 1841015
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 021015Z JUL 08
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8364
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 9498
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 8777
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 3126

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000350

SIPDIS

STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WESTERN HEMISPHERE: COLOMBIA

Uribe's Adventure

Editorial in liberal Folha de S.Paulo (7/02) says: "President of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, is facing political-juridical difficulties although his popular prestige continues to be high. It is exactly this mixture that worries. ... In an attempt to suppress the scandal [ex-Senator Yidis Medina vote buying scandal], the government launches the idea of convoking a referendum, which authorizes the repetition of the 2006 presidential contest. This would be a way to recover legitimacy. The logic of the proposal is precarious. Nobody questions Uribe's victory; what is contested is the legality of his candidacy. It seems frightening to take such decision to the streets, especially in a context in which the Executive and Judiciary are in a dispute and the Legislative is going through an unprecedented credibility crisis. The measure sounds even more dangerous when one has known for some time that Uribe is flirting with the idea of a third mandate."
White